

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-22 (canceled)

1 23. (Currently amended) A storage system comprising:
2 a first I/O port for connection to a communication network;
3 a plurality of I/O ports at least a second I/O port separate from the first I/O port for
4 connection to a the communication network, the first and second I/O ports each receiving write
5 requests;

6 an array of media for storing information, the array comprising a plurality of disk
7 storage units organized into a plurality of logical disks;

8 a plurality of data paths, each data path being selectively connectable for selective
9 connection between any one of the logical disks and any one of the I/O ports; and

10 an allocator to allocate one of the data paths between one of the logical disks and
11 one of the I/O ports based upon a data rate capability of the said one data path[[s]] to thereby
12 provide a desired quality of service.

1 24. (Previously presented) A storage system as in claim 23 wherein the array of
2 media includes media having different operational characteristics, and wherein the storage
3 system allocates individual ones of the media to individual ones of the data paths to provide the
4 desired quality of service.

25. (Canceled)

1 26. (Previously presented) A storage system as in claim 24 wherein the array of
2 media comprise hard disk drives, and the different operational characteristics comprise different
3 speeds of operation.

1 27. (Currently amended) A storage system as in claim 24 wherein the storage
2 system allocates ones of the array of media based upon a data rate capability of the media and a
3 data rate capability of the-a communication link coupled to one of the data paths.

1 28. (Currently amended) A storage system as in claim 24 wherein the desired
2 quality of service comprises a specified bandwidth and wherein the storage system allocates
3 individual ones of the media based upon the-a guaranteed bandwidth.

1 29. (Currently amended) A storage system comprising:
2 an array of storage media;
3 a plurality of I/O ports at least a first I/O port and a second I/O port separate from
4 the first I/O port, each having a network connection operable to connect to the array to a network
5 with a desired quality of service;
6 a plurality of data paths to selectively couple the I/O ports to the storage media,
7 wherein a data path between one or more of the storage media and the network connection is
8 selected to provide sufficient data speed to accommodate the desired quality of service.

1 30. (Currently amended) A method for allocating resources in a storage system,
2 the storage system comprising a first of I/O port and a second I/O port separate from the first I/O
3 port and an array of storage devices coupled to a network connection by data paths, the method
4 comprising:

5 establishing a data path between a storage device of the array and one of the I/O
6 ports, wherein said one of the I/O ports is coupled to the network connection; the data path being
7 selected to provide a sufficient data speed based upon data capacity of the storage device and
8 data rate capability of the network connection; and

9 selecting a storage device of the array based upon the data capacity and the data
10 rate capability of the network connection.

1 31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the step of
2 establishing the data path comprises assigning a data path having a sufficient data speed to
3 accommodate the desired quality of service.

1 32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the step of
2 establishing a data path comprises searching for unallocated data communications resources to
3 accommodate a data capacity of the array.

1 33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the step of selecting
2 ones of the array comprises searching for unallocated ones of the array having a sufficient data
3 capacity to match a data rate capability of the network connection.